

Appl. No. 09/814,331
Reply to Office Action of FEB 05, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating a porous plastic object having a rough surface to obtain a desired surface appearance, said method comprising :
 - a) ~~removing surface porosity of said object~~ infiltrating the pores of said plastic object with a curable polymer;
 - b) ~~smoothing said surface with a curable polymeric hardener; and curing said polymer to form an infiltrated surface on said plastic object with a surface roughness (Ra) of 7-10 μm ;~~
 - c) ~~curing said hardener~~ applying an external coating of a curable polymeric hardener on said infiltrated surface, said hardener having sufficient viscosity to remain on said infiltrated surface; and
 - d) curing said hardener to obtain a matt surface with surface roughness (Ra) of 0.2-0.7 μm .
2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising :
 - d) e) sanding, with at least one grade of abrasive, said matt surface to remove further reduce said surface roughness (Ra) of 0.2-0.7 μm .
3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2 further comprising :
 - e) f) applying a layer of lacquer on said matt surface to obtain a glossy appearance surface.
4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3 ~~further comprising :~~ whereby said lacquer may be coloured.
 - (f) ~~Colour printing on said surface by cubic printing, tampon printing or letter stanza transfer~~

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5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3 further comprising :
- (f) ~~g) Texturing printing on~~ said glossy surface by spray painting to apply graphics to said glossy surface.
6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said plastic object is produced by made from nylon powder by selective laser sintering of nylon powder.
- 7-8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended) A method of treating a porous plastic rapid prototype having a rough surface with miniature steps to obtain a desired surface appearance, said method comprising :
- a) infiltrating the pores of said plastic object prototype with a curable polymer;
- b) curing said polymer to form an infiltrated surface on said plastic prototype with a surface roughness (Ra) of 7-10 μm ;
- c) applying an external coating of a curable polymeric hardener, on said infiltrated surface, said hardener having sufficient viscosity to remain on said infiltrated surface and to fill up said miniature steps to form a smooth surface without said miniature steps; and
- d) curing said hardener to obtain a matt surface with surface roughness (Ra) of 0.2-0.7 μm .
10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9 further comprising :
- e) sanding, with at least one grade of abrasive, said matt surface to remove further reduce said surface roughness (Ra) of 0.2-0.7 μm .
11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10 further comprising :
- f) applying a layer of lacquer on said matt surface to obtain a glossy appearance surface.

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12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~further comprising:~~ whereby said lacquer may be coloured.

~~(f) performing Tampon printing, letter stanza transfer or cubic printing on said surface.~~

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9 11 ~~wherein said prototype is made from nylon using selective laser sintering~~ further comprising:

g) printing on said glossy surface to apply graphics to said glossy surface.

14-26: (Withdrawn)